



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WTTC, Inc., dba "The Wichita Toy Train Club" is an organization of collectors and operators for both classic tinplate and current hi-rail trains. *Club members are generally oriented toward "O-gauge" (Lionel, MTH, K-Line, Atlas, Williams, Weaver, Marx) and "S-gauge" (American Flyer, American Models, S-Helper).* Some members are also interested in the larger "G" and smaller "HO" and "N" gauges, but there are other local clubs for the more serious pursuit of these alternatives. WTTC can help put you in contact with them.

**HISTORY:** WTTC was organized in 1985 in the garage of charter member, *Gene Rasler*. A more formal structure developed in 1986 with the election of club officers. The club's first major project was the design and building of a 12-foot by 16-foot display layout for the Children's Museum of Wichita, forerunner to Exploration Place. It combined an American Flyer loop on an upper level with a double loop of Lionel track on the main level. Scenery included mountains, tunnels, a deep river gorge spanned by a hand-built curved trestle bridge, roads and scale buildings. Trains operated on a timer, with the simple push of a button. When the Museum closed at the end of 1999, the layout was preserved by moving it into two successive mall suites.

The *original Train-Mania suite* opened to the public on February 19, 2000 at Pawnee Plaza Mall. A 1400-square-foot area, WTTC was able to display the aforementioned "Children's Museum" layout plus about two-thirds of the modular layout (described below) when not in use at local train shows or displays. The Club also held its monthly meetings there, and had room for a small repair bench. In June, 2002 the suite had to be vacated, due to the mall's impending demise, making way for a new Wal-Mart Super Center.

In September 2001, a much larger suite in the lower level of the Twin Lakes Mall at 21st and Amidon became available. Dubbed "*Train Mania II*", many improvements to the physical plant were made, and Club meetings were switched to the new location. For ten months both suites were simultaneously occupied, but after shortly following a farewell party in June, 2002, all layouts, fixtures and supplies were moved to Twin Lakes. Much more spacious, the new clubhouse was opened to the public on Nov. 6, 2004. Until it closed on Oct. 13, 2007, it housed nine operating layouts, including the highly-acclaimed "**Taggart Railroad.**" At this date, WTTC is looking to re-open a clubhouse or museum soon.

Other early WTTC projects -- aside from the "Children's Museum" layout -- included collaborating with a local HO club to hold the first of many *Air Capital Train Shows* in 1987. Prior to that first show, a modular layout standard was procured and Club members began constructing "modules"--small 3-foot by 4-foot tables with standardized tracks--so the cost of the layout could be distributed amongst the club membership. The layout was completed in time for its debut at the show. The Air Capital shows ran at Century II through 2004. *Boy Scout Railroading merit badge seminars* were held in Oct. 2006 and 2007 at Train-Mania II.

In January 2003, WTTC became incorporated, and in July 2003 received its 501c3 status. We celebrated our Twentieth Anniversary in Sept. 2006 with visits from O-Gauge Railroading magazine editor *Jim Barrett* and the M.T.H. VP of Sales & Marketing, *Rich Foster*. WTTC and the Taggart Railroad appeared in separate feature articles in the December 2007 issue of OGR.

## ACTIVITIES:

- *Members may operate their own trains on WTTC layouts at various train shows and events* we attend throughout the year.
- *Club members may elect to build their own "personalized" modules*, which are transported to a show and then combined with the Club layout. The current overall size of the modular layout with all available modules is approximately 12-feet by 50-feet.
- *Train School* -- The future of the toy train hobby rests with the success of attracting younger members into its ranks. To this end, WTTC holds classes one Thursday evening per month. Children from 2-17 may attend, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Attendance may be limited, and priority is given to WTTC members and their children or grandchildren. Concepts such as scale, gauge, collecting and prototypical operation are covered. A hands-on activity is usually planned. Contact Tami Alexander at 684-9397 for dates, location, and class availability.

### WTTC CLUB MEETINGS

First Saturday most months, 8:30am  
Armstrong Plumbing building, 4200 W. Douglas.

### FOR INFORMATION or TO JOIN

WTTC, P.O. Box 4091, Wichita, KS 67204-0091  
or [www.wttcinc.org](http://www.wttcinc.org)

### DUES

\$17 – first year, \$12 annually thereafter  
Membership includes a monthly newsletter

*Thanks for your interest in the Wichita Toy Train Club!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ / email address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ / cell or work phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> year dues=\$17.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Interest Area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

WTTC Member Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_